

Lewiston Hosts 200th Anniversary of First Major Battle of War of 1812 Battle of Queenston Heights Reenactment Set for Oct. 12-14, 2012

This October, "the nation's eyes will be upon us." Lewiston volunteers are working diligently with their colleagues in Canada to commemorate the first major battle of the War of 1812, called the Battle of Queenston Heights. Thousands of American troops were sent to Lewiston in October 1812 to invade Canada in an attempt to drive the British out of North America. Some call it the "Second American Revolution" because it was the second time the U.S. and Britain fought.

Why is the War of 1812 Important?

- 1) Britain stopped bullying the U.S. and allowed American ships free passage on the high seas.
- 2) The U.S. became a "real" country and not just an experiment in democracy.
- 3) It prompted the formation of today's modern day Navy.
- 4) It opened the West to expansion and "Manifest Destiny."
- 5) It began the "Era of Good Feelings" and drove economic growth throughout the 19th Century.
- 6) It gave us the words to our National Anthem.
- 7) It set the stage for 200 years of peace between the U.S. and Canada, the strongest alliance in the world.



Canada was still a British colony at the time, and the British were responsible for defending it. The American troops outnumbered the British 4-to-1. At first, the invasion looked successful and the Americans planted the 15-star, 15-stripe, flag atop the Queenston, Ontario, escarpment in Canada. Cannons were used and troops fired their muskets at each other.

After a few hours, the British and their Native allies counter-attacked. The Americans would need additional troops to cross the Niagara River to help hold the British back.

There were about 2500 American militia troops stationed in Lewiston to help the regular army troops. The militia was composed of average citizens -- people like farmers, craftsmen, tradesman -- who signed up to be temporary soldiers if needed during wartime.

American General Stephen Van Rensselaer ordered the militia to get in the boats to cross the river to help the American army. However, the men in the militia could see that the American army was beginning to lose the battle and refused the General's orders. The Americans were pinned down and were forced to surrender. Over 1000 Americans were taken prisoner.

To commemorate the event, hundreds of reenactors from across the U.S. and Canada will be coming to Lewiston and Queenston to participate.

Event Programs You Don't Want to Miss

Among the highlights of the event include:

Oct. 12, 4pm: "Off to War" parade and cannon procession from Academy Park to 4th Street.



Oct. 12, 7pm: Nighttime cannon bombardment of Canada from Water Street. Includes fireworks, music and Air Force fly-over.

Oct. 13, 3pm: Cannon bombardment of Canada from Artpark, during the Battle reenactment in Queenston.

Oct. 13, 9am-5pm: Interpretive programs and entertainment at Academy Park.



FRONT

New Commemorative Coin Minted for Queenston Heights Bicentennial

This will be a valued Lewiston keepsake for generations. Specially minted, this 1.75 inch diameter metal coin is highlighted in gold and black, and depicts the iconic 1896 image from artist John David Kelly on the front, and the Star Spangled Banner and British Union Jack on the reverse, along with the phrase, "Commemorating the War, Celebrating the Peace."

Coins are \$10 each, plus \$4 shipping and handling charge for each coin. You can order by mail or phone. You can call the Lewiston Museum at 716-754-4214 and pay by credit card. Or you can send a check to the Historical Association of Lewiston, Inc, PO Box 43, Lewiston, NY 14092.

They are also available at the Museum for pick-up, during weekday business hours. It's always best to call ahead to make sure someone is there to help you. The Museum address is 469 Plain Street, Lewiston, NY 14092 (side entrance.)

Welcome to Lewiston, NY HistoricLewiston.org 716-754-4214

The Historical Association of Lewiston hopes you enjoy your visit to our historic and quaint village. Mark your calendar for our next spectacular Lewiston Tour of Homes on Dec. 1 & 2, 2012.

Get our free email newsletters by sending an email to: join@HistoricLewiston.org. You can also see and download our past placemats at our website, HistoricLewiston.org.

Historic Lewiston placemats written and designed by volunteer, Lee Simonson



Tuscarora Heroes

The amazing and true story of how the Tuscaroras saved Lewiston citizens from the brutal British attack during the War of 1812.

This story was almost lost to history, and stands today as a unique example of Native Americans rescuing white settlers from a foreign attack. The book is now available at DiCamillo Bakery and the Lewiston Museum. Price: \$10.

Get your copy and find out why Lewiston citizens will be forever grateful to the Tuscarora Nation.

Get an 1812 Car Decal / Sticker

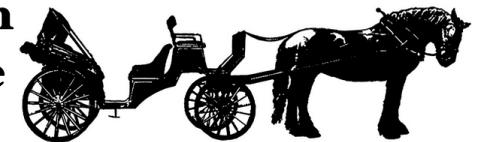
Only \$2 per sticker and a great way to show your pride in our War of 1812

heritage. All proceeds go to help fund the local 1812 events and festivities.

To order your sticker, call the Lewiston Museum at 716-754-4214. This is also a great window display for your home or business. The decal measures 4 inches high and 6 inches wide.



Lewiston Carriage Rides



Friday evenings and all day Saturday and Sunday

Is there a better way to enjoy the charm and romance of Lewiston? Your coachman will take you anywhere you desire -- to shop, eat, or just see the sights. One patron said, "I loved the experience and can't wait to go again. Thank you for the memories."

Tour D'Elegance

Call 716-754-8295 for Reservations

Rides can take up to 4 passengers